SUBJECTS.

empowered to sign copies of the papers applied for, instead of the Head ministerial officers of the several courts; and *(d)* that impressed sheets might be introduced for granting copies. He also requested that printed process forms promised by the standing orders of the High Court might be supplied early, as great hardship was being caused to the client population by processes not being served promptly; and further proposed that, in the interest of departmental discipline, Munsiffs might be given control over the peons deputed for service in their courts.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions will be communicated to the High Court. I must, however, at once say that there is very little chance of any modification of the rules being made now, because these rules have been in force for just over three months, and the High Court have recently sent in a report to say that it is far too early to amend the rules now.

22. *Rule re. production of encumbrance certificates for sales in execution of decrees.*

Mr. A. Venkitarama Iyer also requested that the rule requiring encumbrance certificates for sales of immovable property in execution of decrees in civil courts might be abolished or that such certificates should be ordered to be issued by the Sub-Registrars themselves vouching to the correctness and the exhaustiveness of the entries therein made without making the applicants responsible for the same. As it was, no body was responsible for the correctness of the certificate and this gave a premium for slipshod returns.

Dewan's reply.—The Head Sirkar Vakil advises me that, if Sub-Registrars are instructed to grant certificates such as you suggest, *viz.*, absolutely vouching to their correctness, there is the contingency that, in cases mistakes are discovered, a party who thinks that he has sustained loss on account of a wrong certificate, may sue Government for damages. In view to that fact, Government cannot issue instructions of the kind suggested. The question of doing away with encumbrance certificates completely was discussed fully at the last session and the answer was then given that the certificates could not be completely done away with. Government have since received a report from the High Court endorsing that opinion and see no reason to alter their views.

23. *Appointment of competent conveyancers.*

Mr. K. Raman Tampi (Member, Vilavankod Taluk) said that much mischief, loss and unnecessary litigation were being caused by the ignorance and irresponsibility of the document writers frequenting Registration offices, and

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

SUBJECTS.

requested that the present class of men might be replaced by competent conveyancers.

Dewan's reply.—Government are not in a position to do anything in this matter.

24. *Police reform.*

Mr. R. Parameswaren Pillai (Member, Shertallai Taluk) spoke on the necessity for re-organizing the Police department and referred to the suffering the people were being put to by the absence of timely reforms and by the non-appointment of proper and capable officers, to the absence of qualifications for the appointment of constables, the appointment of illiterate constables as Station-House officers, the increasing number of cognizable offences and of departmental punishments, the indiscriminate arrests made by Policemen and to the perfunctoriness of the supervision exercised by the Assistant Superintendents. He said that by doing away with useless officers, the amount now being spent on the department would be sufficient to introduce the necessary changes and suggested the following reforms :— (*a*) that charge of stations should be given only to Sub-Inspectors as in Cochin and British Malabar; (*b*) that the number of Inspectors should be reduced, one Inspector being appointed to two or three Taluks; (*c*) that prompt enquiry into offences should be enforced; (*d*) that a small educational qualification should be prescribed for constables; (*e*) that only such as are of good conduct and belonged to respectable families should be appointed as officers; (*f*) that a Police Training School be opened as in Mysore; (*g*) that separate Prosecuting Inspectors be appointed; and (*h*) that rules should be passed for the proper discharge of work by all officers of the department.

Dewan's reply.—I have heard with great interest all that the member has stated about the condition of the Police department. The subject is rather a wide one and cannot be dealt with in the answer to a single question. The necessity for the early revision of the department will be borne in mind.

25. *Canals and Ferries Bill.*

Mr. N. Madhavan Valiathan (Member, Tiruvella Taluk) said that the Canals and Ferries Bill introduced into the Legislative Council was not necessary in the interests of the public. It would be detrimental to the development of agriculture and trade. In view to the fact that this country is honey-combed with rivers and canals which the people have to cross and re-cross almost every day, to levy even a small toll at every ferry would be to trench on the means of livelihood of the natives and interfere with the travelling con-

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